

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A bicycle cable guide system for maintaining tension in a straight portion of a flexible cable extending between a cable actuated bicycle component and a cable actuator selectively applying tension to the flexible cable, the cable guide system comprising:

a straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing having sufficient rigidity over its length to prevent buckling of the tubing upon application of tension to the cable by the cable actuator, thereby ~~virtually eliminating~~ reducing significant contact with the interior of the tubing and ~~essentially eliminating~~ minimizing friction over the tubing length, the tubing operatively associated with the exterior of a bicycle frame having first and second ends and an inner diameter greater than an outer diameter of the flexible cable receiving the straight portion of flexible cable;

a first axially fixed connector operatively associated with the first end of the rigid tubing; and

a second axially fixed connector operatively associated with the second end of the rigid tubing.

2. (Previously Presented) The bicycle cable guide system of claim 1 wherein the first axially fixed connector comprises a first length of flexible housing receiving the flexible cable and a ferrule between a first end of the housing and the first length of flexible housing.

3-4. Cancelled.

5. (Currently Amended) A bicycle cable guide system for maintaining tension in a flexible cable extending between a cable actuated bicycle component and a cable actuator selectively applying tension to the cable, the bicycle cable guide system comprising:

a first length of flexible housing having a select outer diameter and an inner diameter greater than the diameter of the cable;

a straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing having sufficient rigidity over its length to prevent buckling of the tubing upon application of tension to the cable by the cable actuator, thereby ~~virtually eliminating~~ reducing significant contact with the interior of the tubing and ~~essentially eliminating~~ minimizing friction over the tubing length and having an inner diameter greater than the diameter of the cable; and

a ferrule joining an end of the first length of flexible housing to a first end of the axially and radially rigid tubing.

6. (Withdrawn) The bicycle cable guide system of claim 5 further comprising:

a second length of flexible housing having substantially the same inner and outer diameter as the first length; and

a second ferrule joining an end of the second length of flexible housing to a second end of the straight length of axially and radially rigid tubing.

7. Cancelled.

8. (Original) The cable guide system of claim 5 wherein the cable actuated bicycle component is a cable actuated disc brake caliper.

9. (Withdrawn) The bicycle cable guide system of claim 6 wherein the second length of flexible housing has an axial length that does not radially buckle under application of tension to the flexible cable under a normal range of operating tensions applied to the cable to actuate the cable actuated component.

10. (Withdrawn) The bicycle cable guide system of claim 5 wherein the axially and radially rigid tubing has an outer diameter substantially the same as the outer diameter of the axially rigid and radially flexible housing.

11-15. Cancelled.

16. (Previously Presented) The bicycle cable guide system of claim 2 wherein an outer diameter of the rigid tubing is essentially equal to an outer diameter of the flexible housing.